



## **109<sup>TH</sup> SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS** ***SECURING AMERICA'S VALUES***

### ***SIGNED INTO LAW***

#### **BROADCAST DECENCY ENFORCEMENT ACT—P.L. 109-235**

This law reflects the Senate's commitment to protecting children and families from being exposed to offensive material, and encourages media outlets to provide additional family-tiered programming by increasing penalties for transmission of obscene or indecent material and profane language for television and radio broadcasters.

#### **CORD BLOOD**

##### **STEM CELL THERAPEUTIC AND RESEARCH ACT OF 2005—P.L. 109-129**

Research has demonstrated that cord-blood stem cells can be effectively used to treat several diseases, including leukemia, Fanconi anemia, and sickle cell disease. This law provides for the collection of human umbilical cord blood to be used for treatment, transplant, and research. Additionally, an advisory council will be created to coordinate with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure that donated cord blood not appropriate for transplant use will be made available for use in peer-reviewed research. The collection and use of umbilical-cord-blood stem cells after child birth causes no harm to mother or child.

#### **FETAL FARMING**

##### **FETUS FARMING PROHIBITION ACT OF 2006—P.L. 109-242**

This Act amends the Public Health Service Act to prohibit any person or entity involved in interstate commerce from soliciting or knowingly acquiring, receiving, or accepting a donation of a human fetus that was deliberately provided for such donation; or accepting tissue or cells obtained from a human embryo or fetus that was gestated in the uterus of a nonhuman animal.

##### **TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION OF 2005—P.L. 109-164**

This law reflects America's commitment to fighting human trafficking, a crime in which human beings, including children, are essentially bought and sold as slaves. This bill will assist authorities in investigating and prosecuting traffickers and customers, provide grants to state and local law enforcement, and provide services to victims.

## **MARRIAGE PENALTY RELIEF**

### **TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2005 (TAX RECONCILIATION)—P.L. 109-222**

Marriage is one of the leading anti-poverty strategies, and married couples cannot afford the painful backdoor tax increase imposed when they file a joint tax return. This law prevents a scheduled tax increase by extending the tax relief provisions until 2010 to protect families from significant tax increases.

## **CHILD TAX CREDIT**

### **TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2005 (TAX RECONCILIATION)—P.L. 109-222**

The Child Tax Credit is an important tax credit that families may claim on their federal tax returns. For many American families, this child tax credit will lower the amount of taxes given to the federal government, ensuring that more money stays in the pockets of the American people. This law limits the tax burden on families with children by extending tax breaks to families through 2010.

## **HEALTHY MARRIAGE & RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD**

### **DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT—P.L. 109-171**

The DRA provides grants including \$100 million annually for the promotion of healthy marriage initiatives, and \$50 million annually for responsible fatherhood programs to strengthen two-parent marriages, reduce poverty, and improve child well-being.

## **ADAM WALSH CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFETY ACT OF 2006—P.L. 109-248**

The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act expands the national sex offender registry by integrating the information in state sex offender registry systems and ensuring that law enforcement has access to the same information across the United States. This law also strengthens federal penalties for crimes against children by imposing tough mandatory minimum penalties for the most serious crimes such as sex trafficking of children and prostitution. This law also makes it harder for sex predators to reach children on the internet and creates a new national child abuse registry and ensures a safe learning environment for children through background checks.

## **CHARITABLE INCENTIVES/CARE ACT**

### **PENSIONS PROTECTION ACT OF 2006—P.L. 109-280**

The Pensions Protection Act incorporates eleven provisions from S.1780, the CARE Act, including: incentives for individuals to give tax-free contributions from their Individual Retirement Accounts for charitable purposes; incentives for businesses and farmers to donate an estimated \$250 million in food donations in the next 2 years; incentives for charitable giving for conservation purposes; incentives for S Corporations to give for charitable purposes; charitable donations of inventories to public schools.

*Source: Senate Republican Conference, Senator Rick Santorum, Chairman (R-PA)*

## ***PASSED SENATE***

### **JUDGES**

The 109th Congress has ensured fair, up-or-down votes and confirmed nominations for Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., and Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr. Senate Republicans have also confirmed 14 Judges to the Court of Appeals and 34 Judges to the District Court. The vacancy rate in the federal courts is now just 4.9 percent, lower than it has been in more than 20 years.

## ***OBSTRUCTED***

### **CHILD CUSTODY—S. 430**

The Child Custody Protection Act (CCPA) changes no state laws, but will ensure that statutes requiring parental notification or consent in a child's abortion are honored. The legislation does exempt parental involvement if the girl's life is in danger and for other extreme circumstances. It also creates a new federal crime if someone who has committed incest with a minor takes her across the state line for an abortion. The bill makes it a federal crime to circumvent state parental involvement laws by taking a minor across state lines for an abortion. (Passed Senate, Obstructed by Democrats from going to Conference).

### **THE ALTERNATIVE PLURIPOTENT STEM CELL THERAPIES ENHANCEMENT ACT, S. 2754**

This Act amends the Public Health Service Act to require the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to conduct and support basic and applied research to develop techniques for the isolation, derivation, production, or testing of stem cells that have pluripotent or embryonic-like qualities.

Recognizing that supporters of the bill come from varying perspectives on the legitimacy of embryonic stem cell research, the bill contains a rule of construction saying that nothing in this bill shall be construed to affect any policy, guideline, or regulation regarding embryonic stem cell research, human cloning by somatic cell nuclear transfer, or any other research not specifically authorized.

The bill also directs the NIH to provide guidance on this research, including prioritizing research with the greatest potential for near-term clinical benefit; determining the extent to which specific techniques may require additional basic or animal research to ensure that any research involving human cells is consistent with the purpose of the bill; and taking into account the techniques outlined by the President's Council on Bioethics and any other techniques and research.

Despite the unanimous support from Democrats in the Senate, House Democrats came together to vote against this bill.

*Source: Senate Republican Conference, Senator Rick Santorum, Chairman (R-PA)*

**DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE, S.J. RES. 1**

As the core social institution of our society, marriage in the United States should be defined as it has been in every civilization around the world for thousands of years: marriage is the union between a man and a woman. The definition of marriage is far too important to leave open to interpretation by unelected activist courts. In response to recent efforts by activist judges to experiment with this vital social institution Senate Republicans put forward an amendment to the Constitution defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman and leaving all other questions of partnership, civil unions or contractual relationships to state legislatures.

**FLAG AMENDMENT, S.J. RES. 12**

Senate Democrats obstructed passage of the Flag Protection Amendment by a vote of 66-34, at a time when the men and women of our armed forces are bravely fighting for freedom. In 1989 the United States Supreme Court ‘discovered’ a constitutional ‘right’ to burn the American flag in the case of *Texas v. Johnson*—overturning 200 years of precedent. The amendment simply gives congress the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States. The flag is not only the physical symbol of our nation, but also of our nation’s values.

*Source: Senate Republican Conference, Senator Rick Santorum, Chairman (R-PA)*